

Appn No. 09/693,226
Amdt. Dated March 10, 2005
Response to Office action of February 25, 2005

4

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the detailed Office Action of February 25, 2005. The objections and submissions made by the Examiner in the Office Action have carefully been considered. It is submitted that distinguishing features are present in the invention and have now been brought out in the amended claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The Examiner has objected to claims 1 to 4, 6 and 7 of the present application on the basis of the claims being unpatentable over USPN 6,441,921 (Soscia) in view of USPN 5,771,245 (Zhang).

Applicant contests the Examiner's conclusion on the unpatentability of the rejected claims. However, in the interest of an expeditious prosecution of the application, the Applicant has followed the Examiner's suggestion in the "Allowable Subject Matter" section and introduced the limitation of claim 5 into claim 1 by specifying that the coded data is "*printed to cover substantially the entire area of the at least one surface of the card*".

Both cited documents are totally silent with regard to the feature now introduced in claim 1. Correspondingly, an ordinary worker in this field, apprised of the cited documents, would not have derived the specific combination of features defined by the amended claim 1 as a matter of straightforward routine. Thus, claim 1 is now clearly novel and inventive. Consequently, claims 2 to 4, 6 and 7 are now also novel and non-obvious, by virtue of their dependence on the amended claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the helpful comments in this section.

In light of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, the Applicant trusts that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

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5

Very respectfully,

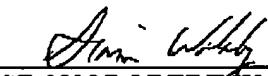
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